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# EDDC pledge on food fears

**By ANDERS LARSSON**  
[anders@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:anders@tindlenews.co.uk)

A LOCAL authority says there is no need to be “unduly concerned” by the gaps between food hygiene inspections.

Earlier this month, East Devon District Council (EDDC) encouraged would-be diners not only to check out menus, but food hygiene ratings too.

An EDDC spokesman said at the time: “Good food hygiene is getting easier to spot these days with the recent introduction of the National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme.

earlier this year, initially with permanent catering establishments.

“Restaurants, pubs, hotels, as well as cafés, takeaways and other places that sell or serve food, are now being rated from 0-5 on their hygiene standards when a food hygiene inspection is carried out by EDDC.”

But closer examination revealed that a number of venues had not been inspected since summer 2010, before the scheme was launched.

A closer look also revealed at least one example of a venue having had an “improvement necessary” (Grade 2) status for more than a year.

When asked about various aspects of the inspection regime, the EDDC spokesman

said: “We would like to reassure the public that there should be no need to be unduly concerned by the gaps between inspections.

“In general terms, environmental health officers carefully assess the risks associated with each premises and would simply not award a low-risk rating to premises unless there was a good level of compliance and a high level of confidence in the management to maintain those standards between inspections.

“Failure to meet both requirements would usually result in a higher risk rating and more frequent inspections.

“To explain the apparent anomaly, in the case of premises where improvement is necessary, it is still possible for the

environmental health officer to have a high level of confidence in management, provided of course that standards of hygiene and cleanliness are satisfactory.

“There may well be other mitigating circumstances that prevent full compliance – for example issues surrounding the long-term investment in major structural repairs – and the environmental health officer may therefore quite properly consider it unnecessary to downgrade the overall risk rating at the time of the last inspection.”

As the scheme is relatively new, not all food businesses will have a rating yet.

Scheme information and food hygiene ratings are available online at: [www.food.gov.uk/ratings](http://www.food.gov.uk/ratings)



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Inside today ~ See pages 6 & 7

**PULMAN'S LITTLE ANGELS**

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◆ **TICKETS** for Colyton Theatre Group's January pantomime are on sale now. *Cinderella* and her *Rockafella* (A Colyton Fairytale) is a new, updated version of the classic fairytale, specially written by director Brian Boyt. Performances start from Wednesday, January 11th to Saturday, January 14th in Colyton Town Hall. Tickets (at £7 for adults and £4 for under 18s, discounted at £6 and £3 for first night only) are available from The Little Shop and Colyton Pharmacy, Archway Bookshop in Axminster, and Steve's Print and Tower Services in Seaton. For details of group booking rates, contact the treasurer on 01297 552626. Left, some of the cast members

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# Free FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Happy Birthday

HAPPY 9TH BIRTHDAY  
**KIERAN DOWNTON**  
MON 2ND JAN  
LOVE FROM MUM & DAD

## Happy Birthday

**PAMMY**  
Happy 70th  
birthday Jan 2nd  
love from the gang

## Happy Birthday

Dear **SOPHIE**  
With love on your 18th  
Birthday.  
Love always,  
Mum, Richard  
and James



## Happy Birthday

Happy  
17th Birthday  
**JAMIE WELLMAN**  
Have a great day,  
Love Dad, Denise &  
all the family

## In Memoriam

In loving memory  
of **ALICE ROSE**  
A dear Mum, Nan &  
Great Nan, 29.12.07  
From Eileen, Gerald, Rob,  
Jen, Andy & Families

## Happy Birthday

**DANIEL CRABB**  
Happy 8th  
Birthday, 22.12.11,  
Lots of love  
Mummy, Daddy  
and Benjamin XXX

## Happy Birthday

Happy  
18th Birthday  
**SOPHIE**  
Love always,  
Dad, Sarah,  
George and Amy



## Happy Birthday

**BEN VINE**  
Happy 21st  
Birthday  
love from Mum,  
Paul & Michael



## Congratulations!

To  
**HATTIE HOBSON**  
& **CRAIG LAPPING**  
on their engagement  
12/12/11. Much love  
and happiness for  
the future! Mum,  
Dad and Heidi xxx



## Happy Birthday

**BEN VINE**  
Happy  
21st Birthday  
Love from Nan,  
Chris and Family



## Congratulations!

Happy Retirement  
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maybe Candlestick  
Maker?! Love  
Thomas and Harry



## FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENT ORDER FORM

Message .....

Date for Insertion: Tuesday .....

Send to: PULMAN'S VIEW FROM, South Street, Axminster, Devon EX13 5AD or email to: julie@tindlenews.co.uk

Signed ..... Telephone .....

We are happy to include photos. If you would like to have your photos returned, please supply a S.A.E.  
Only entries submitted with full contact details will be published. Deadline is Thursday before the Tuesday's publication and must be submitted on the above form. No faxes will be considered.  
This is a free service and whilst we endeavour to include all entries we cannot guarantee insertion. We cannot accept liability for loss or error.

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## HEARD - ROY

of Colyford, formerly of Clover Hayes,  
Smallridge, aged 82 years. Passed away  
suddenly at home on 21st December 2011.

Dearest husband of Margaret, father of  
Carolyne and grandfather of Lee and Ross.  
Loved by all his family. Rest In Peace.

Funeral Service to be arranged for first  
week of January, for Service details please  
contact Overmass & Chapple  
Funeral Directors, 01297 20644.  
Family flowers only please



## Swimmers' five miles for charity

JENNY Palmer, her daughter Claire and grand-daughters Maisie and Steph organised a swimathon raising £600 for the Peninsula Foundation's DIRECT diabetes project.

To raise the money, the girls swam 362 lengths of Axminster's 25-metre Flamingo Pool resulting in a total distance of five-and-a-half miles.

Fundraising for local diabetes research is a decidedly family affair for the Palmers with Jenny's husband and grand-daughter Steph suffering from Type 2 and Type 1 diabetes respectively.

The Peninsula Foundation's DIRECT diabetes project funds research aimed at improving the healthcare of diabetes patients across the region and beyond.

For further information visit [www.peninsulafoundation.org.uk/DIRECT.php](http://www.peninsulafoundation.org.uk/DIRECT.php).



◆ JENNY Palmer, rear left, with her daughter Claire and granddaughters Maisie and Steph

# PARENT SETS UP CONCERN GROUP

## Fears grow over school federation 'rush' as questions go unanswered

By **ANDERS LARSSON**  
[anders@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:anders@tindlenews.co.uk)

**ALL Saints CE Primary School has agreed a temporary management partnership with Beer CE Primary School, but an Axminster man is starting a group for concerned parents.**

Andrew Stuckey, whose child attends All Saints Primary, feels there is a rush to push the school towards federation, and he doesn't understand why.

But the partnership is described as "a positive step" by chair of governors Ruth Tucker, who said: "This is a really positive step for our children and will broaden their educational opportunities."

"The partnership will provide the ability to share teaching skills, resources and expertise between the schools while preserving their separate identities and ethos."

"Many schools in Devon already operate management partnerships, with great success."

All Saints Primary has been under

temporary headship since November 11th when Bryony Ewings took over.

Long-serving headteacher Christine Hollidge is off work, and the newly-formed partnership will see Beer Primary head Martin O'Mahony act as head of both schools from January.

In a letter to parents of All Saints pupils, Mr O'Mahony wrote: "January is a time of new opportunities and I look forward to working with you in 2012."

Mr Stuckey feels the school, which is operated by Ofsted, is going in a direction that would not be the choice of Mrs Hollidge.

He said: "Look at the achievements of the school. Why is there such a haste to change things?"

He also feels there is a lack of clear communication from school leaders and described recent communication as "fringing around the edges of what the issue actually is".

Mr Stuckey attended a recent school coffee morning to raise some issues and subsequently decided to form the group.

Several people have contacted *Pulman's View* over the last month regarding changes at the school, but Mr Stuckey is the only one who has been prepared to go public.

*Pulman's View* informed Devon County Council's (DCC) press office about the great level of interest, and the formation of the parents' group.

A DCC spokesperson said: "The headteacher is absent due to sickness and Martin O'Mahony, the head of Beer, will be acting as head of the school."

"We do not comment on personal issues relating to members of staff."

"However we can confirm that both the local authority and the Diocesan Board are fully informed of the situation and are offering advice and support as appropriate."

*Pulman's View* has sought Mrs Hollidge for comment without success.

Anyone interested in more information about Mr Stuckey's group can write to him at: 8 First Avenue, Axminster, EX13 5EX.

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# Pool gets £7,500 overnight cover

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AXMINSTER'S community-funded Flamingo Pool has been awarded £6,275 by NatWest CommunityForce to buy an overnight cover for its hydrotherapy pool.

The cover, which has now been installed, will limit evaporation and heat losses overnight, thereby reducing running costs for electricity, gas and water as part of cost-saving initiatives to help ensure the continued provision of services for the east Devon, west Dorset and south Somerset areas.

A donation had already been received from the Axe Vale Festival but along with the

CommunityForce grant the pool has raised the £7,500 that was needed to install the pool cover.

Run by a charitable trust, the Flamingo Pool depends upon the support of the community to continue operating. The award, voted for by the public and receiving a total of 423 votes, illustrates the role the pool plays in that community.

A spokesman for the pool said: "It was a massive effort and we're delighted, more for the customers as it shows that a small community can make a difference."

He added that the cover would save them a lot of money in the future.

## 500 at funeral

THE funeral of local farmer Pete Dare, who died after a battle with cancer, took place on Thursday, December 15th from 1.30pm at Kilmington Church.

The service saw more than 500 people come to pay their respects and was relayed via loudspeakers to the village hall where those unable to fit into the church were seated.

The Rev Alastair McCollum, who presided over the service, said that the event was phenomenal.

"It was the largest funeral I've done since being in east Devon," he said. "Pete was exceptional and very much respected for his integrity and generosity."

Pete was also an avid skittler and fellow skittlers bore the coffin.

## Photographic award for pupil



◆ HEADTEACHER Martin Smith, Jonathan and Gill

AXE Valley Community College student Jonathan Wilson has gained a licentiate from the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain.

This is the first level of distinction awarded by the society.

To gain the award Jonathan had to supply a panel of 10 images in line with certain criteria.

Jonathan has attended weekly classes with professional tutor and international tennis photographer Gill Elliott, who said: "Images have to be presented to a very high standard and it is a great achievement for Jonathan, especially in his GCSE year and all

the inherent pressures that is entailed with those studies.

"He has also exhibited images in several student exhibitions and is already developing a stylistic approach to his work."

"Such is his commitment to his chosen career that he is already beginning work on his associateship panel in portraiture and fashion photography, and we are looking to establish him in a small business to help him with funding for university."

"I am sure we all congratulate Jonathan on such an outstanding achievement and wish him well in his photographic endeavours."

Pulman's View photos can be easily viewed and purchased online at  
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## Dancing the night away

**HONITON Folk Dance Club held its Christmas party on Sunday, December 19th in Offwell Village Hall.**

With more than 40 people in attendance, everyone enjoyed themselves with the dances called by Simon Maplesden and the music provided by the Amycrofters Folk Dance Band.

The band, led by Andrew Mycroft on accordion, was augmented for the event by Doug Middleton on flute, Adrian Ball on banjo, Maureen Knight on keyboards and June Mycroft on keyboards and ukelele.

The club's next meeting will take place on January 9th in Offwell Village Hall. For more information on the club or the band call Andrew or June on 01404 46451 or visit [www.amycrofters.co.uk](http://www.amycrofters.co.uk).

## £800 raised in the street

**THE Rotary Club of Axminster is full of praise for those who supported its recent street collections.**

A collection on December 1st raised a total of £405 in aid of Devon Air Ambulance.

On December 15th £440 was raised for ShelterBox, to which additional funds were added, sufficient for a further ShelterBox.

A cheque was presented to Tom Henderson OBE and founder of ShelterBox on Friday, December 16th at the Rotary lunch in the guildhall.

Mr Henderson thanked the club and the people of Axminster for their continued support.

# Health tips for festive season



**THE stresses of the festive season and late-night parties can have an effect on your health.**

Rather than popping painkillers to get you through the party season, think ahead and take precautions.

Festive food may be traditional, delicious and decidedly moreish, but it can be tough on the digestive system.

● Indigestion, or dyspepsia, is a range of problems in the gastrointestinal system.

● Some people have reflux, where acidic stomach contents come back up into the gullet, causing a burning sensation (heartburn).

● Indigestion can be caused by over-indulging, which leads to swelling of the stomach and inflammation of the gut lining. Smoking, stress and excessive alcohol or caffeine consumption all cause indigestion too.

● To avoid pain eat small portions and don't rush meals. Keep fried, fatty and spicy food to a minimum.

● For immediate relief, try antacid medicines.

Feeling like a bear with a sore head? Try these morning-after miracles:

● When you wake up in the morning with that fuzzy feeling, grab a glass of water. Alcohol dehydrates the body so you need

to replace that by drinking plenty. Even better, have a glass in between every alcoholic drink the night before.

● Sadly, the hair of the dog will not make you feel much better. Opt for orange juice instead. The vitamin C will do you far more good.

● A couple of milk thistle capsules could get rid of that hangover. Artichoke is another natural remedy which is thought to help the liver function properly again.

● Add a few drops of peppermint oil to some olive oil and massage gently into your temples to relieve a headache.



◆ THE Little Otters toddler group in Awliscombe held its Christmas party, and enjoyed a visit from Father Christmas who gave a present to each child. Above, the youngsters gather around Father Christmas

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Advertisers Announcement

## Happy Christmas from David Light

Almost the end of another year, and a few more happy people have passed their driving test, and I am pleased to have achieved my aim of a very good pass rate.

May I take this opportunity in thanking all my passed pupils for giving me the pleasure and great satisfaction in making this possible. I am looking forward to my present and future pupils doing the same.

Next year, of course my main concern is being able to teach safely for life, giving pupils a safe and confident start in their future driving. So it's not QUANTITY it's QUALITY lessons.

Christmas is but a short time away and it's the time of year when we are thinking on what to give a family member or friend for Christmas. What better present to give than to give them a good start in life with a drivers gift voucher. I still have a few left, so give me a call on 01404 871400.

Happy Christmas to all and the very best for the New Year.

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The festive faces of children across Pulman's Country in their school nativity plays...

# PULMAN'S LITTLE ANGELS



◆ KEY Stage One pupils at St Mary's Primary School in Axminster performed The Nativity as their Christmas production. The pupils are pictured above before the dress rehearsal on Tuesday, December 13th. The children at Branscombe Primary School put on their Christmas play Baboushka in the village hall. Top left, the shepherds arrive. Left, Baboushka and her faithful cat

■ Photos can be easily viewed and purchased on the Pulman's View website at [www.axminster-today.co.uk](http://www.axminster-today.co.uk)

**PULMAN'S VIEW AVERAGE WEEKLY PICK-UP ~ 16,751 COPIES**

April 2010 — March 2011. Independently audited by: David Pinder & Co Ltd, Chartered Accountants, Registered Auditors, Plymouth



## Classified

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The festive faces of children  
across Pulman's Country in  
their school nativity plays...

# PULMAN'S LITTLE ANGELS



◆ THE nursery children at Littleton Primary School put on their Christmas nativity in front of the rest of the pupils. Above, Mary and Joseph with the baby Jesus. Left, a group of angels

◆ THE pupils at All Saints Primary School all sat down together for their Christmas lunch in the village hall on Friday, December 16th. Before lunch the youngsters were entertained by the school staff performing their version of the twelve days of Christmas. Right, the pupils tuck into their Christmas lunch



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- Sesame Crusted Goats Cheese, Mango & cumin Chutney

#### Main Course

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- Grilled Fillets of Sea Bass, Leek & Ginger Potato Cake, Chervil Sauce
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# Carol has not let anything hold her back from being a success!

OVER the last few years life has not been too kind to Carol Austin. Carol is 80 years old and has had many health issues to deal with which include diabetes, heart attack and two total knee replacements.

But not to be beaten, Carol decided to do something for herself and try to make a difference. In April 2010 Carol joined the Honiton Slimming World group and when she did so had to enter the group on her mobility scooter and just briefly stood to get her first weigh-in.

Carol knew she had to lose weight but what with one thing or another had never given herself the time to think about tackling it.

Eventually, in April 2010, Carol's GP told her that she must lose weight in order to avoid having hip replacements.

This was all it took to spur her on, and as they say, the rest is history.

Over the last year Carol has lost an amazing 4st 10.5 which has had significant impact on her health and life.

Carol has now been able to come off her insulin which, after so many years is such a relief, and also, that lady who first attended group in a mobility scooter, is now walking in just the same as anyone else.

"Carol is a true inspiration" says her Consultant, Sharon, "and even since joining Slimming World Carol has lost her husband and suffered further health problems, but has always persevered with her weight

loss journey."

Carol says "I am much more active nowadays, and even visit the gym under supervision. I am always out and about visiting friends and family. I love to eat out and find it so easy now I can follow the Slimming World Extra Easy plan.

I still follow their older plans of green and original too as they all suit me.

I particularly love fish and I am planning a large family get together over Christmas which will include lots of Slimming World recipes which all the family can tuck into"

Carol is now on a mission as she is taking such a big step in July next year when she plans to visit her family in Canada and wishes to reach her weight loss goal by that time.



◆ Carol Austin is proof that slimming at any age can have huge benefits to your health.



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**Thursdays 7pm - Feniton Primary School (Deborah 07986 173481)**

**\*Free taster session 9 Jan**



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## ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (U)

**THE singing, helium-voiced chipmunks are all at sea in Mike Mitchell's zany sequel and so too is the script for this third instalment in the inoffensive series.**

Writers Jonathan Aibel and Glenn Berger borrow one subplot from the Tom Hanks film Cast Away by stranding a character on a desert island, then have him combat loneliness by drawing faces on sports balls and address inanimate objects as living, breathing friends.

Hanks earned an Oscar nomination for his emotionally wrought performance.

It's doubtful that Alvin And The Chipmunks: Chipwrecked will be nominated for any glittering prizes, although the unfathomable success of previous films at the box office will doubtless continue here.

Mitchell crams his film with musical sequences set to some of the biggest dance floor hits of the past 12 months including Flo\_rida's Club Can't Handle Me featuring David Guetta, Lady Gaga's

Born This Way, LMFAO's Party Rock Anthem and Katy Perry's Firework.

Even if the target audience loses interest in the scrappy storyline, boys and girls will be able to sing along with Alvin and co.

What a treat for parents!

Dave (Jason Lee) heads off on a luxury cruise with singing critters Alvin (voiced by Justin Long), Simon (Matthew Gray Gubler) and Theodore (Jesse McCartney) and the feisty Chipettes — Britney (Christina Applegate), Eleanor (Amy Poehler) and Jeanette (Anna Faris).

While Dave takes a nap, Alvin and the gang take flight on a kite and are blown onto a tropical island with an active volcano.

There, they meet DHL worker Zoe (Jenny Slate), who has lost her sanity.

While the chipmunks return to nature, Dave and Ian race against time to rescue the animals from their new home before it is covered in molten lava.

Lee is reduced to screaming Alvin's name at full volume whenever the titular chipmunk gets into trouble, while the two scriptwriters casually mix pop culture references with the obligatory toilet humour.



## DIARY DATES

**Saturday, January 7th**

**CREWKERNE:** The monthly Heritage Centre coffee morning will be held from 10am - 12 noon.

**Wednesday, January 11th**

**HONITON:** U3A lecture Water Aid - clean water to developing nations by Neil Whiter. 2.15pm at the Turks Head Lodge. For further details phone 01404 20823160.

**Saturday, January 14th**

**DUNKESWELL:** Farmers Market at Throgmorton Community Hall 10am - midday. Local produce, plants, crafts and gifts. Refreshments available.

**Send your Diary Dates to:**  
**diarydates@tindlenews.co.uk,**  
or by post to **Pulman's View, Tindle**  
**House, South Street, Axminster,**  
**Devon EX13 5AD**

# Win ice tickets

## Competition...Competition...Competition...

**PULMAN'S View** has teamed up with **Holiday on Ice** as it returns to **Westpoint Arena, Exeter, from February 14th to 19th** and has four pairs of tickets to give away to lucky readers.

The world's most visited ice show returns with a brand new show — **Tropicana: The Passion Tour**. Created and choreographed by Olympic champion Robin Cousins MBE, **Tropicana** takes you on a journey that celebrates love, life, music and dance in one of the most thrilling ice spectacles you will ever

see.

As well as offering an original musical score, **Tropicana** features interpretations of some of the best loved songs from world-renowned songwriter Barry Manilow including **I Can't Smile Without You**, the iconic **Mandy** and the one and only **Copacabana**.

For the first time in **Holiday on Ice's** history, **Tropicana** employs a giant, state-of-the-art LED screen as the backdrop to the show, enhancing the action on the ice with a thrilling light show that incorporates additional footage of the skaters.

Tickets are now on sale. Prices range from £23 to £36 with concessions for senior citizens and children at just £12. For more information visit [www.holidayonice.co.uk](http://www.holidayonice.co.uk) or call the box on 08444 99 99 55.

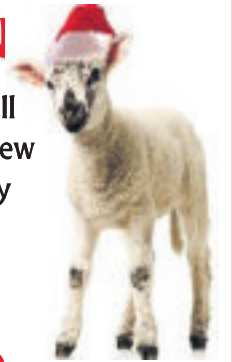
To be in with a chance of winning one of four pairs of tickets to the **Holiday on Ice** show send your name, address and telephone number to **Holiday on Ice Competition, Pulman's View, Tindle House, South Street, Axminster, Devon EX13 5AD** by **Wednesday, January 11th 2012**.

■ **Normal terms and conditions apply. the editor's decision is final**

## THE LAMB INN

Bel, Lech and Polly wish all their customers a Happy New Year and invite everybody to the Lamb's popular

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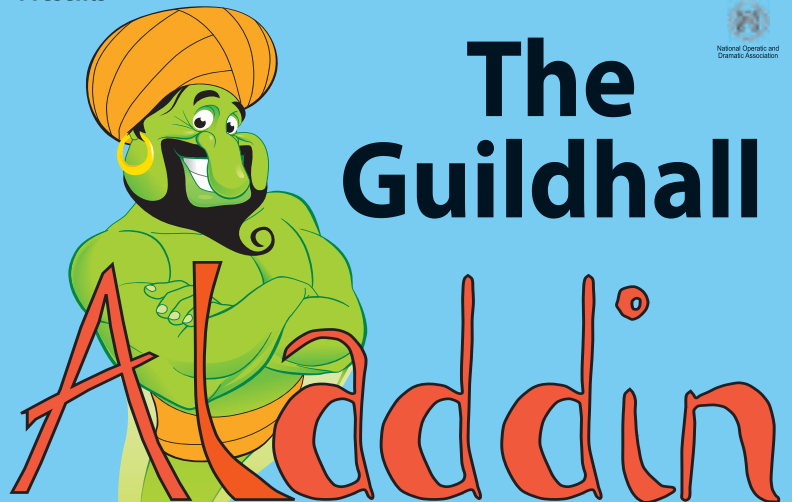
## Tickets for Axminster Drama Club's pantomime Aladdin go on sale at the Archway Bookshop after Christmas.

The club has frozen prices at last year's level of £9 for adults, £6 for concessions and £24 for a family ticket that can only be bought in advance. There will also be discounts available for individual tickets bought in advance. The show is set to take place from Thursday, January 19 to Saturday, January 21 at 7.30pm, with a matinee also taking place on the Saturday, at 2.30pm. The cast has been working hard at rehearsals to create a free-flowing show with some great songs to maintain the pace. The set designers have also been doing their bit, with some stunning scenery being created at the club's headquarters, ready for the first set up weekend, which takes place early in the New Year. Members of Axminster Drama Club look forward to welcoming everyone to see this year's spectacular production



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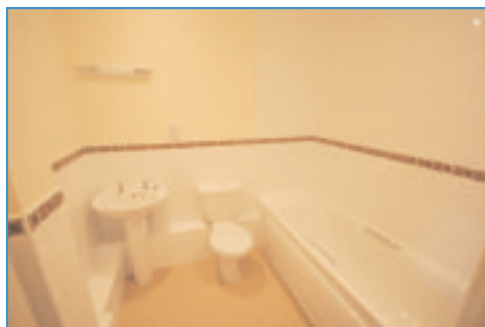
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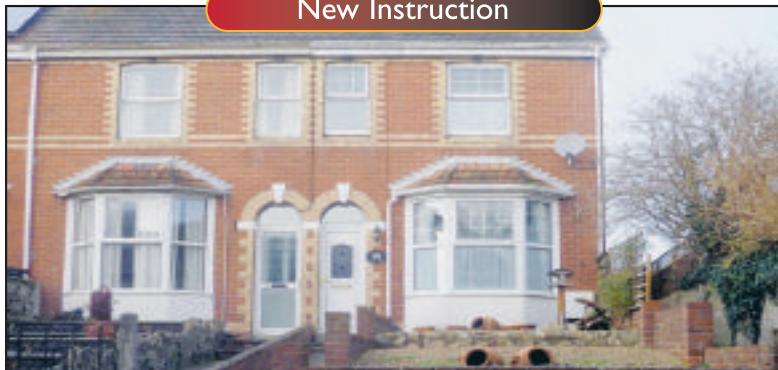


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## New Instruction



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## New Instruction



### Kirby Close

£149,950

A 2 bedroom, semi detached property enjoying far reaching rural views to the front and countryside views to the rear with an enclosed garden. The property benefits from a driveway with parking for several cars and uPVC glazing throughout. The accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance porch, hallway, lounge with far reaching rural views, kitchen fitted with a range of units and breakfast bar and conservatory/dining room on the ground floor, with two double bedrooms and a bathroom on the first floor. Outside the frontage is open plan with an enclosed rear landscaped garden with raised patio, vegetable patch, greenhouse and garden shed.



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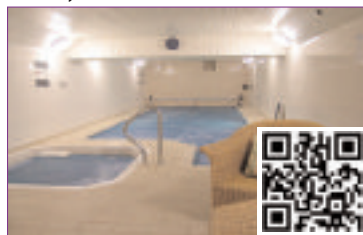
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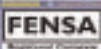
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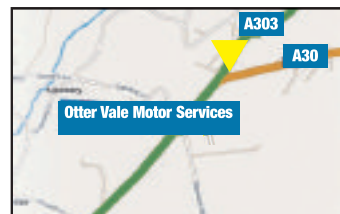


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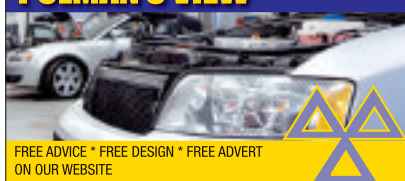
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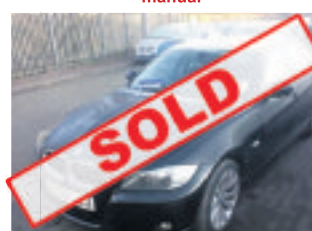
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# Pulman's View Sport

## FIRST WITH THE LOCAL SPORT — EVERY WEEK

### GYMNASTICS FESTIVAL

# Spring in the air



◆ PRIMARY schools in the Axe Valley attended a gymnastics festival in the sports hall at Colyton Grammar School. The event was organised by schools sport co-ordinator Anne Harris and run by the grammar school's Year 12 sports leaders.

Photos by  
Colin Bowerman



### PERRY STREET LEAGUE

# MIGHTY LYME'S TEN OUT OF TEN Leaders sweep all before them

By **KEVIN FAHEY**  
pulmans@findlenews.co.uk

**JUST three teams remain unbeaten in the Perry Street League as the race for glory enters the decisive second half of the season.**

Top of the pile are the mightily impressive Lyme Regis. Robin Townsend's side have so far swept all before them with a 100 per cent record of 10 wins out of 10 games for 30 points, seven clear of Beaminster.

So superior have they been that it would be no surprise if they finished the season unbeaten, though extending their run to 60 points might be stretching it.

"We are exactly halfway through the season and have played everyone and not come unstuck yet," said Townsend.

"The league table doesn't lie and we would have to lose three games to be caught and I can't see that happening. We have a very strong squad so competition is strong and keeps the players hungry.

"Our only danger is when we play teams like Combe Reserves or Perry Street.

"We are always on our game for the big matches against Beaminster, Winham or South Petherton but it is the other games where we can slip up so we have to guard against that."

While it is hard to see Lyme

slipping up, the Division One battle is really tight.

Shepton Beauchamp extended their unbeaten start to 10 games after a 1-0 win at home to current leaders Millwey Rise, coincidentally inflicting on Shane Featherstone's side their first league defeat of the season.

The two clubs are locked on 24 points each, but Millwey have a game in hand and Featherstone is still bullish about their title chances.

"I am pretty confident we will win the league as I feel we are the best team in the league," said Featherstone.

With that one defeat ending eight straight wins in which Millwey scored 37 goals at an average of four

per game Featherstone's confidence is not misplaced, though Shepton's win has kept alive the title race into the new year.

The third and final club boasting an unbeaten record are current Division Three leaders Waytown Hounds. They sit top thanks to eight wins and two draws from their opening 10 games.

Remarkably they are only top by virtue of goal difference as they share 26 points with Chard United, who have played a game more and suffered just one defeat.

Which club will crack first? Like the Division One race this is an intriguing contest that could go down to the final weeks of the season.

### BEER ALBION FC



◆ SPONSORS Phil and Jan from the Anchor Inn, Beer, with Beer Albion captain Stephen Grigg

# Why Beer can roll out festive barrel

**BEER Albion had Christmas and New Year all rolled into one big party, both on and off the pitch, as the club enjoyed a tremendous finish to 2011.**

On the pitch the club enjoyed their best result of the season with a 2-0 win over local rivals and Devon and Exeter League Premier Division leaders Seaton Town.

Arguably more important for their long-term security was the off-the-pitch sponsorship deal with the Anchor Inn in Beer which saw the team turn out in new kit.

"It is very important for us to get local sponsors like the Anchor Inn and we are very grateful to Phil and Jan, who run the pub, for offering their support to provide first-team kit," said

Albion chairman John Moughton.

"I think they recognise it is important to support the local community and we are really pleased they have come on board."

Moughton said the new sponsorship deal reflected the success of the club which also has a reserve team in Division Five.

"I think to field two teams for a small village club is quite an achievement," added Moughton.

"We are very proud of the fact that we only use local people and they understand the importance of playing for Beer. We have a very good committee and everyone works very hard."

Clearly the future looks very bright for Beer Albion FC.

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## Strike force

SEATON Town manager Josh Stunell believes the battle for the Fresha Devon and Exeter League Premier Division title has become a three-horse race.

With the season approaching the halfway point, Seaton sit nicely at the top with a two points' lead over St Martins and Topsham Town a further five points adrift in third, though both those clubs have a game in hand over the leaders.

So in theory St Martins could knock Seaton off top spot, which makes their clash on the opening weekend of the new year in Exminster such a huge match.

But before then Seaton are at home to Budleigh Salterton on Saturday (December 31st) when Stunell will be looking for an immediate response after Seaton's defeat away to Beer Albion last week.

"I think it is a three-horse race now between us, St Martins and Topsham and that is probably good for the league," said Stunell.

**By KEVIN FAHEY**  
[pulmans@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:pulmans@tindlenews.co.uk)

"If we had beaten Beer last weekend we would have opened a five-point lead on our rivals so they were probably delighted that we lost."

"But that was only one game and while we did not want to lose it will bring us back down to earth."

Just two league defeats and one draw in 14 games is still title-winning form as long as Seaton return to winning ways as the season nears the halfway point. But Stunell knows the setback at Beer is a timely reminder to his players that the title is still up for grabs.

"We haven't won anything yet," added Stunell. "But if we keep up our pre-Christmas form and even improve, it will be very interesting."

Having won the Division One title only last season and by a huge margin, Seaton's continuing success under Stunell's astute leadership is a remarkable story and one the manager

insists is far from over.

"If we win the league we want to go into the South West Peninsula. That is the long term aim," explained Stunell.

"Of course we have to win the league first to progress but we make no bones about our ambition. We would have to make a few alterations at the ground but we are determined to push on and my view is backed by the committee."

"We have some very good young players at the club and if we are not ambitious we run the risk of losing them."

"If we as a club don't match their ambition we risk becoming a recruitment centre for everyone else."

Clearly Stunell doesn't want to settle for that so he will do everything he can to secure back-to-back titles and take Seaton into the next level of regional football alongside the likes of fellow east Devon clubs Axminster Town and Ottery St Mary.

Now that would be an interesting three-horse race.



◆ SEATON Town striker Alex Wheatley, manager Josh Stunell and striker Cameron Vere  
 Photo by Martin Whitham



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